



**MILL VILLAGES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2018**

A meeting of the Mill Villages Advisory Committee was held on April 12, 2018 at the South Grafton Community House, 27 Main Street, South Grafton. Present for the meeting were Philip Gauthier, Chairman; Ruth Anderson, Vice Chairwoman; Andrew Kjellberg, Clerk; and Members Kenneth Grew, Ann Morgan, Paul Pollinger, Michael Trilligan, and Julie Roberts. Also present were Town Planner Joe Laydon, and DPW Superintendent Paul Cournoyer.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
2. **New Business:**
 - a. Town Planner Joe Laydon presented draft plans on the creation of a recreation path around the former mill site with two entrances and exits on Main Street. The project would include overlooks of the Blackstone River and a canoe launch. VHB is conducting a feasibility study which will allow the Town to negotiate an easement when the property is developed, and estimates the total cost of construction at \$472,000. Mr. Laydon anticipates gaining a grant from MassWorks to cover at least a portion of the cost.
 - b. Mr. Laydon also informed the Committee that his office is able to provide staff support, including for the brick program, and asked for clarification on our interest in other mill villages in Grafton, specifically New England Village. Ken Grew said he would review the charge of the Committee for clarification.
 - c. Mr. Laydon suggested that the Committee create a long-term plan for the upkeep and maintenance of if Mill Village park. Ann Morgan reminded the Committee that programs were not intended to be funded by the Committee, and the proceeds from the brick program should be used to maintain the park.
 - d. Paul Cournoyer spoke to the necessary maintenance of the park for the coming season. He said that the Town should take over the mowing for the spring and summer. The rain gardens are not functioning as intended and have become overgrown. He feels it is not realistic for them to be maintained in the future and the Committee should look at other options for that space, such as planting low-maintenance shrubs. The South Grafton Water District does not allow irrigation systems, so we need to stay away from plants that require a lot of water and perpetual care. He will also get some designs and quotes for a fence, and the Committee can work on an application to the Community Preservation Committee for funding.
3. **Old Business**
 - a. Brick Program Update – Ann volunteered to contact the Planning office and get an update on the brick program.
 - b. Flag Day Concert – Ken offered to coordinate with the Recreation Department to arrange for portable toilets to be delivered in advance of the concert. He will also check with Jenn

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Andersen on the availability of a PA system. Andrew reported that the Knights of Columbus has offered \$500 in sponsorship for the concert, which will be combined with the \$250 from this Committee. Ann reminded the Committee that, going forward, programs at the park were not intended to be funded by the Committee.

4. **Any Other Business Which May Legally Come Before the Committee**
 - a. Phil shared that the park bench damaged by vandals has been repaired and re-installed.
 - b. Ken Grew made a motion that the Committee draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen thanking Joe Laydon and Paul Cournoyer for their attendance and cooperation. Second by Ann Morgan. Motion carried unanimously.
6. **Next Meeting** – May 10, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
7. **Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn made by Ann, seconded by Mike. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Voted as accepted: May 10, 2018